



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

PRACTICAL PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY—Morris Leider, M.D., Associate Professor of Dermatology, New York University Post-Graduate Medical School. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1956. 433 pages, \$10.50.

This book is an excellent and recommended review of the subject of pediatric dermatology. It comes doubly welcome because there are very few books in this specialized, though very commonly encountered, field.

There is an elementary, but excellently written and lucid consideration of skin anatomy, physiology, and pathology in 21 pages, including a useful dermatohistopathologic glossary. The chapter on principles of dermatologic diagnosis includes many useful tables on differential diagnostic points. Therapy is particularly excellently treated, including a fine section on exactly how dressings should be applied. There follows a section printed on blue paper (for easy reference) of 101 most useful dermatologic preparations. The remainder of the book is devoted to a systematic consideration of dermatoses arranged etiologically.

The book is written with a clear, concise style not devoid of humor. The material is excellently organized, almost all chapters containing tables into which a great amount of material is clearly presented. Especially good among the 41 tables are those classifying dermatoses by system involved—nails, oral mucosa, panniculus adiposus, sebaceous glands and sweat glands. The 115 photographs and drawings are well chosen, instructive and clear. The table of contents is fair. The index is very good. The type is very readable. The paper, with the unfortunate exception of the blue pages on therapy, is of very good quality.

On the distaff side, it is unfortunate that a book which considers hapalonychia, glossitis rhomboidea mediana, and folliculitis ulerythematosus reticulata does not include descriptions or illustrations of measles, chickenpox, roseola, or rubella. Fleabites, not always so easy to diagnose, are dismissed with two sentences. The important fact that insect bites may elicit bullous reactions in children instead of the usual wheals and papules, is not mentioned. The section on allergic mechanisms could have been more complete. Unguis incarnatus is incorrectly referred to as "unguium (genitive plural) incarnatus." Regrettably, no references are given at all for further reading. The author declared his intention to avoid an exhaustive bibliography, but would not a pinpointing of selected key articles be even better, and certainly better than no references at all?

These are, however, relatively minor drawbacks, and should not detract from the sound, practical approach to dermatology so beautifully presented. Although it contains little which is completely new to the dermatologist, the organization and classification of so much material in so little space should put the book in great demand with dermatologists. Because it contains so much valuable material which would be completely new to pediatricians and general practitioners, it will be of inestimable value in these circles.

DISEASES IN INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD—Second Edition—Richard W. B. Ellis, O.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., Professor of Child Life and Health, University of Edinburgh, E. & S. Livingston, Ltd., Edinburgh—Distributed in U. S. by The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1956. 710 pages, \$10.00.

This volume by the Professor of Child Life and Health of the University of Edinburgh is a general pediatric text intended for the medical student, pediatrician and general practitioner. The first edition appeared in 1951 and this is the first printing of the revised second edition. The book is well printed and profusely illustrated. Its chapters on congenital malformations, constitutional factors and prenatal infections are interesting and in general up to date. However, the reader may be disappointed in the approach suggested in certain sections as this reviewer was with the author's treatment of the subject of allergy and of adrenal cortical hyperplasia.

References, though not numerous, cover recent literature fairly well, especially those of British origin.

This volume can be better recommended as a supplementary text on pediatrics than as the sole pediatric reference for one's library.

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DERMATOLOGY—Donald M. Pillsbury, M.A., D.Sc. (Hon.), M.D., Professor and Director, Department of Dermatology; Walter B. Shelley, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Dermatology; and Albert M. Kligman, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Dermatology, all from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1956. 1331 pages, 564 figures, \$20.00.

The arrival of this new textbook in the field of dermatology is a refreshing and stimulating event.

The authors have broken sharply from the traditional revision and repetition of other editions and texts which have cluttered so many medical textbooks in the past.

In writing this book, the basic sciences, particularly skin physiology, have been stressed, and we find the result truly rewarding.

Dermatologic terminology has been revised and simplified; only the "preferred" methods of therapy have been stated. The photographs and diagrams are extremely well chosen and at times humorous. The normal functions of the skin as an organ are stressed throughout.

Many readers will find the sections on skin allergy and hypersensitivity and industrial dermatoses particularly valuable.

The dermatologist reader will undoubtedly note the absence of complete lists of references. The chapters include only one or a few key references to the subject matter.

It is felt that nonspecialists, as well as dermatologists, students, as well as teachers, will welcome this clarifying textbook of the skin to what is often regarded as a somewhat cumbersome and perhaps confusing field of medical literature. This text represents one of the finest contributions to the field of dermatology in the past twenty-five years.